

property, there remain several that have not passed or implemented legislation.

Congress and the administration must continue to work with and encourage our European allies to rectify historical wrongs and bring a measure of closure for Holocaust Survivors and those individuals who lived under the deadly yoke of Communism.

Despite repeated promises by some governments, Holocaust survivors and heirs have struggled and waited for over six decades to recover their property or receive adequate compensation.

The resolution before us today simply calls on Central and European countries, more specifically Poland and Lithuania, to enact fair, comprehensive and just legislation to allow for restitution of properties that were illegally taken away from citizens and communities during the last century.

With respect to Poland, I want to commend Polish Prime Minister Tusk for his public commitment to introduce property restitution legislation. As the Polish government moves the legislative process forward, it is essential that a claims process be created that is un-bureaucratic, simple, transparent and easy for claimants to use. I urge the Bush administration to continue to directly engage the Polish Government over the coming months and to express their strong support for a claims process that is fair and just for survivors and other claimants.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution and in support of fair and just property restitution, which is long overdue.

PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, to require equity in mental health and substance-related disorders under group health plans.

I want to thank Representative PATRICK KENNEDY for his leadership in developing and negotiating the passage of this critical law.

It's also right that this bill be named in honor of Senator Domenici and our friend, the late Senator Paul Wellstone. Senator Wellstone was truly a champion for mental health and this Act honors his memory.

As a former psychological social worker, I appreciate the necessity of mental health parity and the significance of this bill. Many diseases go hand in hand with depression, substance abuse, and a variety of other mental health issues that cannot go untreated.

For example, when a person is diagnosed with cancer or HIV, they and their families go through a range of emotional responses. To treat only the physical signs of illness is to ignore the broad ranging emotional implications of a disease.

Currently, companies can limit both the number of visits that a person makes to a

mental health professional in a year and the network of doctors a patient can see, even where no such limit exists for medical or surgical benefits. That is ridiculous.

Disease treatment must provide individuals with the ability to adapt their lifestyle and manage the changes associated with their illness. Whether it is anxiety, stress, or even stigma—the diagnosis of a disease always impacts an individual's mental health. To downplay the necessity of mental health care in treatment is simply counterproductive.

By enacting this bill to require mental health parity, we take a crucial step forward in guaranteeing that our constituents can access the level of health care that they need. I believe however, that fundamentally, we need to move to a universal health care system.

Additionally, the Act prohibits insurance companies from charging different rates for deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket expenses for mental health.

These commonsense changes will help expand access to mental health services throughout the country, and I am pleased to support them.

I urge the president to sign HR 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and to recognize that mental health care is a crucial tool in promoting the overall health and well-being of the American people.

PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. I applaud your leadership in bringing this bill to the floor and addressing the issue of mental health parity. We must expand access to mental health to ensure a strong and productive America that provides for its most vulnerable citizens. This bill will do just that, without creating an undue hardship on employers or insurers.

The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act requires those insurers or group health plans who do choose to cover mental health to do so on an equal basis with other covered health needs. This will ensure that those in need can get the treatment that is medically necessary.

My home State of North Carolina was one of the first States to adopt a mental health parity law back in 1991, and last year the State legislature expanded and strengthened its mental health parity provisions. I support the efforts of North Carolina's mental health professionals in bringing this issue to the forefront of our State's agenda, and I am pleased that we are following suit today in passing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 6983.

CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor and supporter of H.R. 4544, the Code Talkers Recognition Act. I commend Mr. Boren for introducing this important legislation.

We all know that during World War II, Americans from across the country came together and did what they could to defend our Nation. In recent years we have learned more about the efforts of a particular group of people that had an enormous influence in the success of the U.S. military, especially in the Pacific theater—the Native American code talkers.

Code talkers used their native languages to transmit indecipherable messages for the military. Native code talkers were unique because their languages were not widely known by our enemies, let alone many people in the United States. The code talkers' ability to communicate with other tribal members in their own language gave the United States a substantial advantage on the battlefield.

Although more people are now familiar with Navajo code talkers from World War II, that was not the first time that we employed Native American code talkers. The United States also used code talkers in World War I. Their efforts during both wars were critical, and I am glad that we have come to understand and appreciate the value of their contributions.

While all veterans' service is worthy of our thanks, I want to highlight the commitment made by the code talker veterans of World War I because Native Americans were not citizens of the United States until 1924. World War I code talkers were serving our country nobly even before they were recognized as citizens. In fact, Native Americans have served in the military dating back to the revolutionary war, and they have the highest per capita participation in the U.S. military of any ethnic group. It is appropriate we honor their service and sacrifice today.

Congress previously recognized the Navajo code talkers. However, approximately 14 Indian tribes are known to have had tribal members serve as code talkers. Mr. BOREN's legislation would recognize the efforts of all code talkers. I commend his efforts, but more importantly I commend our Native American veterans for their commitment and service to their country. I urge passage of H.R. 4544.

COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Act, H.R. 1907.

CELCP is a wonderful example of a public/private partnership. I believe strongly in protecting lands currently threatened by the rapid